



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 7, 2013

Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee  
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety Committee  
Senator Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee  
Representative Jan Giegler, Ranking Member Public Safety Committee

Members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on a few of the bills on the agenda for today's public hearing.

**Proposed House Bill #5278 – AA AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS** – It is unfortunate that in the 21st Century, a volunteer fire department has to resort to these measures to raise operating funds to serve their community. However, if this is what is needed, we support the efforts that are required to fund that service

**Proposed House Bill #5542 – AA REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF HOUSE NUMBERS** – We fully support this initiative as we did last year. In times of emergencies, seconds count. In the case of a fire, for every minute that suppression is delayed, the fire quadruples in size. EMS response has only 4-6 minutes to revive a non-breathing person before permanent brain damage starts to occur. The first responders should not have to waste those precious seconds looking for a proper location.

**Proposed House Bill #6007 – AA CONCERNING “BLUE ALERTS”** – We are not aware of this apparently new concept, but we would only suggest that firefighters be added to this initiative. This would eliminate having to readdress the legislation at a later time.

**Proposed House Bill #6011 – AA CREATING A JUVENILE FIRE SAFETY COLLABORATIVE** – It is our understanding that the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control is working collaboratively with the Department of Construction Services and the Department of Children & Families in this effort. We support the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control in these very important efforts to combat juvenile fire safety concerns.

**Proposed House Bill #6015 – AA PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OF FEES FOR THE DISPATCH OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO 9-1-1 CALLS** – We have been in contact with the proponent of this bill and have found that the title of this bill may be misleading. It appears that its intention is to pass legislation that would not allow for a penalizing fee or surcharge for making legitimate calls for service to an E-911 emergency center. We would note that the language of this bill must be narrowly crafted to be sure this bill does its intended task. The public should not be penalized or discouraged for legitimately calling E-911 for emergencies.

Respectfully,

*Ted Schroll Jr.*

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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